

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 IO-10 ISO-00 AGR-05 CIAE-00 COME-00

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

FRB-03 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00

SS-15 NSC-05 NSCE-00 H-02 AID-05 /080 W

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O 212105Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7913

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3092

GENEVA FOR PHELAN

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD CO

SUBJ: TEXTILE ISSUE

REF: 3091

1. MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT CALLED ME AGAIN THIS AFTERNOON TO SAY
A) HE HAD HAD LONG REVIEW OF SITUATION WITH PRESIDENT; B) HE WILL
REGROUP WITH HIS PEOPLE ON MONDAY TO STUDY OPTIONS OPEN TO HIM,
AND HE WAS NOT PREPARED TO SAY AT THIS TIME WHAT COURSE HE MIGHT
SUGGEST; C) HE HAD DISSUADED ANDI (COLOMBIAN EQUIVALENT OF NAM)
FROM ISSUING A PUBLIC BLAST AT US; D) BECAUSE PRESS WAS PUSHING
HIM FOR SOME COMMENT AND IN ORDER TO DEFUSE SITUATION, HOWEVER,
HIS MINISTRY WOULD ISSUE THIS AFTERNOON A BRIEF STATEMENT SAYING
THAT TEXTILE TALKS HAD BEEN "SUSPENDED", BUT THAT PROGRESS WAS
MADE IN LAST FEW DAYS. HE WOULD THEREFORE BE BACK TO US AFTER
MONDAY.

2. MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ALSO CALLED ME TO EXPRESS HIS
CONCERN, AND I REVIEWED FOR HIM OUR UNDERSTANDING OF WHAT
HAPPENED. I SAID I COULD ONLY CONCLUDE THERE WAS AN UNFORTUNATE
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AND HONEST MISUNDERSTANDING THAT ASTOUNDED AND DISMAYED US ALL.

HE SAID THAT WHILE IN WASHINGTON HE WOULD LIKE TO TALK ABOUT WHERE WE GO FROM HERE. HE SAID HE FELT THAT ANOTHER TRY AT AN AGREEMENT WAS THE INDICATED COURSE (IT WILL, HOWEVER, BE THE MINISTER OF DEVELOPMENT'S DECISION).

3. COMMENT: I THINK TODAY'S EVENTS ARE A SERIOUS AND UNFORTUNATE SETBACK. AND IT IS NOT CLEAR IF MINISTER DEVELOPMENT WILL DECIDE TO PURSUE THE MULTIFIBER AGREEMENT ROUTE. WE WILL KNOW AFTER HE REGROUPS ON MONDAY. IN THE MEANTIME, THE COLOMBIAN CHARACTERISTICS OF PRAGMATISM AND DESIRE TO FIND ANSWERS RATHER THAN QUARRELS APPEAR TO BE REASSERTING THEMSELVES, AT LEAST IN TERMS OF A GOC DETERMINATION TO DAMP DOWN ANY CONTROVERSY AND PUBLICITY. VAKY

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Remarks:
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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05 JUL 2006

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